

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a jewelry article which comprises providing an annular body made of a hard material comprising tungsten carbide, with the annular body having at least one external facet; and grinding the at least one external facet to a predetermined shape to provide a pleasing appearance to the jewelry article, with the hard material being long wearing and virtually indestructible during use of the article.
2. The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing additional facets or one or more different finishes to the body member to provide unique reflection characteristics to the article.
3. The method of claim 1, which further comprises highly polishing the at least one external facet of the annular body to a luster that is maintained for life of the article and does not require re-polishing.
4. The method of claim 1, which further comprises grinding a first frusto-conically shaped facet extending around the outer circumference of the body, and forming a first outer facet of the body proximate a first axial extremity thereof; grinding a second frusto-conically shaped facet extending around the outer circumference of the body, and forming a second outer facet of the body proximate a second axial extremity thereof opposite the first axial extremity, with the first and second outer facets positioned adjacent the external facet and on opposite sides thereof.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first and second facets are ground to have surface angles each within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the body and are polished to a mirror finish.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein each external facet is ground and polished to a mirror finish.
7. The method of claim 5, which further comprises grinding fourth and fifth frusto-conically shaped facets extending around the inner circumference of the body.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the fourth and fifth facets having surface angles each within the range of from 1 to 40 degrees relative to the axis of symmetry of the body and are ground and polished to a mirror finish.

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9. The method of claim 1, wherein the tungsten carbide comprises at least 85 weight percent of the hard material.

10. The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing a cavity in the annular body, the cavity having a predetermined size and shape that is configured to receive an insert of a decoration component that provides a substantially different visual effect to the article.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the cavity is configured in the form of a slot, groove, notch, or hole and is provided in a preselected location in the annular body.

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12. The method of claim 10, wherein the cavity is configured in the form of a continuous groove or slot which extends around the annular body.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the decoration component comprises a precious metal that is mechanically fit into the slot so as to hold the components of the jewelry article together.

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14. The method of claim 10, which further comprises providing an insert of a visually different hard material, a precious metal or a gemstone in the cavity of the annular body.

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15. The method of claim 14, which further comprises pre-shaping the insert to have a mating configuration with that of the cavity, and retaining the insert in the cavity by a mechanical fit or with a glue.

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16. The method of claim 14, wherein the insert comprises a precious metal and the mechanical fitting comprises one or more of snapping, pressing, swaging, or burnishing to connect the precious metal to the hardened substructure.

5 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the annular body is provided in the form of a finger ring, earring, or bracelet and has a generally circular configuration.

18. The method of claim 1, which further comprises providing design details the annular body which details are maintained in their original configuration indefinitely.
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19. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is formed by sintering powders that consist essentially of tungsten carbide.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is formed by sintering
15 powders that consist essentially of at least tungsten carbide and a binder material.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the binder material includes nickel, cobalt, or a combination thereof.

20 22. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard material is selected to have a density of at least 13.3 g/cm^3 .

23. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one facet is curved.
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